



JOHNNY HUTCHINSON

... deciding goal

Wycombe's pride is restored by 'Hutch'

JOHNNY Hutchinson restored Wycombe Wanderers' pride last night (Monday), when his 35th minute goal proved enough for the Blues to take both points from a weakened Hayes side at Church Road (writes Stuart Earp).

After Saturday's shock defeat at Ilford, Wycombe badly needed victory to boost morale and the success at Hayes must have done them a power of good. The Blues took only one point from the Middlesex club last term.

Ian Rundle and Tony Amos came into the side in place of Paul Birdseye and Mick Holfield. Two former Wanderers not included in the Hayes line up were key defenders Bobby Hatt, involved in a minor car crash the previous evening and Les Hartridge. Another regular, veteran Kenny Kent, was also absent through injury.

The difference between last night's and Saturday's performances was blatantly marked. Wycombe showed far more enthusiasm and fight at Church Road whereas two days earlier they had been lethargic.

Although Hutchinson turned the game with his well taken goal, my man of the match was undoubtedly Derek Gamblin. 'Gambol' played possibly his worst game of the season on Saturday but certainly made up for it at Hayes — his tackling being the outstanding feature.

After weathering some early pressure from Hayes, goalkeeper Ian Bath saved the home side in the 10th minute when Gamblin's free kick was headed on by Searle to Delaney. The big centre half managed to get a foot to the ball but Bath flung himself to his right and turned it round for a corner.

Hayes retaliated with Terry Brown heading Tony Roberts' free kick powerfully but just wide five minutes later. With both sides constantly challenging, one touch football became the tactic of both sides but this was soon forsaken for the long-ball-down-the-middle ploy, where once again Gerry Olson stood out in the Blues defence.

Hayes 0, Wycombe Wanderers 1

John Delaney, however, was still troubled by the varying bounce of the ball.

'Hutch' broke the deadlock after 35 minutes with an excellent goal. Once again Keith Searle was the initiator of the attack flicking the ball off beautifully into the path of Horseman who put Hutchinson through. Bath dived in vain as Hutch's firm shot flew into the back of the net.

As ever, Wycombe came under pressure in the early second half stages, Peter Drabwell going close with a header after two successive corners. But the Blues soon hit back with Keith Searle almost beating Bath with a swerving drive. Tony Horseman nearly increased Wycombe's lead when put through by Searle, but 'Bodger' couldn't quite control the ball and the Hayes back line were able to recover.

Until the last ten minutes Wycombe's defence were well in command. Hayes could never penetrate the solid back four

while Robb Williams, without the suspension worries over him (he won his appeal over one of his three bookings yesterday morning), broke up many of the home sides attacks.

In the last ten minutes Hayes threw everything into attack in a vain bid to take a share of the points and it took a great save from Maskell to prevent them from doing just that when Tony Roberts crashed in a booming volley which the 'keeper turned around the upright at full length.

Timely interceptions from Gamblin and Olson saw Wanderers through however, the Blues notching their first double of the season.

HAYES: J. Bath, J. Hobbs, M. Bell, G. Thomas, M. O'Sullivan, J. Wilks, D. Yerby, P. Drabwell, T. Brown, T. Roberts, K. Jameson, sub C. Mullan (not used).

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: J. Maskell, I. Rundle, D. Gamblin, G. Olson, J. Delaney, R. Williams, A. Amos, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, J. Hutchinson, A. Horseman, sub A. Gane (not used).

Referee: K. G. Salmon.

Half time: 0-1. Goalscorers: Wycombe—Hutchinson (35).